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work of the preceding reign. It is in the form of commands put in the mouth of the King, and was perhaps compiled by his direction. The utterly inconclusive evidence as to the identity of the author is discussed in the introduction. However, it seems clear that the book was written after the Statutes *De Donis* (1285) and *Quia Emptores* (1290), but, as the editor remarks, before the effect of these statutes was known. Throughout the work the substantive law is expounded solely by describing the remedies — the natural method until a somewhat advanced stage of legal development is reached. The relative importance of various branches of the law at the end of the thirteenth century is roughly indicated by the fact that all the writer has to say directly about the organization of the courts, the duties of royal officers, and the law of crimes, appeals, torts, contracts, and persons is thrown into the first book. The next five consider the possessory actions concerning land, and the sixth deals with the writ of right. The work as we have it is obviously incomplete. From the general scheme we may, perhaps, judge that the sixth book was the last, but, owing to the unscientific arrangement, it seems impossible to guess how much of it is lost. The whole work will be interesting to all who have a slight acquaintance with legal history and value it either for its own sake or for the important light it throws on modern law. The translator has added many helpful notes and there is a good index. The introduction gives a short synopsis of the work and an estimate of Britton's position in the history of the law.

A STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION IN ITS INDUSTRIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS. By Horace L. Wilgus, Professor of Law in the University of Michigan. Chicago: Callaghan and Company. 1901. pp. xiii, 222. 8vo.

This book is made up of lectures delivered by Professor Wilgus to his class in Corporations, and makes very interesting reading at this time when the United States Steel Corporation is so prominently before the public. The author has collected many facts concerning the organization and the industrial position of this corporation, and although the telling necessarily involves many figures, yet it is done so simply and briefly that the reader's interest is sustained throughout. For those who desire more elaborate and technical details, there is a full collection of appendices. Throughout the account one is more and more impressed by the magnitude and extent of the enterprise, by its far-reaching influence and effect, and by the responsibility and power of those who direct its management.

To the sixty-five pages that are devoted to the story of the company, Professor Wilgus adds, in some forty pages, his views on the legality of corporate combinations. The treatment of this subject seems superficial and unsatisfactory and the results seem based on insufficient reasoning. The lack of careful analytical treatment leads the author to pass over easily the difference between the trust, which has often been declared illegal and which has so largely been discarded, and the modern corporation forming its combinations under state authority. So shortly does he dismiss this distinction that he fails to notice many important considerations that make the difference in form very important, although the objects may be the same. As examples of the extremely important results of the corporation form, the greater publicity of its affairs and of its condition and the more direct state control suggest themselves. Certainly the fact that this corporation has been held to be legal by the highest courts of the state under whose laws it was formed would alone seem to call for a more thorough treatment. See *Trenton, etc., Co. v. Oliphant*, 58 N. J. Eq. 507. On pages 76-81, the author points out the similarity of the United States Steel Corporation to the Standard Oil Trust by means of prolix parallel columns. This method is far from satisfactory, however, as by cleverness in wording and an enumeration of unimportant details, the important actual distinctions are skillfully passed over or hidden. Certainly it would be much more convincing to point out and deal directly and thoroughly with important essential features.

Again such extreme statements, as the one on pages 85-86, that a state cannot in any way confer upon any corporation any power to do what the laws of that state forbid, are so sweeping as to be misleading.

COMMERCIAL TRUSTS: THE GROWTH AND RIGHTS OF AGGREGATED CAPITAL.

By John R. Dos Passos. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1901. pp. viii, 137. 12mo.

This book, which is one of the "Questions of the Day" Series, gives us the argument delivered by Mr. Dos Passos, of the New York bar, before the Industrial Commission at Washington. The author's purpose at that time was primarily to protest against any hasty and ill considered legislation, and to urge in particular that there be no legislation to hamper the natural development of the laws of trade, or at least that any such legislation be postponed until the real dangers of industrial combinations are more apparent. He argues that these enormous business combinations are produced by inevitable economic tendencies, and that natural economic laws can so well deal with them that the alleged dangers are more imaginary than real. In concluding he urges that the effect of demagogism upon the development of trade is much more dangerous practically than is the corporate combination.

The only regret that the reader feels in laying aside the book is that the author did not devote himself to a longer, more thorough, and more detailed treatment. Whether one agrees with Mr. Dos Passos in his conclusions or not, he cannot but appreciate the value of so careful, moderate, and analytical a discussion. Several of the distinctions which the author draws are extremely valuable, as for example between the "trust," so often held illegal, and the modern corporate combination. Again, the difference in kind between a monopoly depending upon a state franchise and a monopoly that results from possessing the sources of supply of an article of commerce and the corresponding difference in the treatment demanded are well pointed out.

Amid so much discussion that is political and extravagant, the book is a grateful relief and will doubtless produce substantial results.

CROMWELL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, together with Four Essays on International Matters. By F. W. Payn. London: C. J. Clay & Sons. 1901. pp. vii, 167. 8vo.

In the four essays on international matters, the author discusses Neutral Trade in Arms and Ships, Intervention among States, The Burning of Boer Farms and The Bombardment of Coast Towns, and The Extent of Territorial Waters. On all four topics the author dissents from the views expressed by the late Mr. W. E. Hall, whose book on International Law is the modern English authority. In the course of his essays Mr. Payn curiously enough shifts his point of view. In his first essay, he asks for a total prohibition of trade in arms and ships by the citizens or subjects of a neutral, on the ground that such trade is a violation of moral duty, on which he says international law is based. On the other hand, in discussing the burning of Boer farms, forgetful of this supposed moral basis of international law, he condemns "the insane leniency of the military staff" in sparing any farms on the field of war, and advocates a systematic destruction of private property regardless of the use to which it is put. Continuing, he states his conviction that the bombardment of coast towns is a perfectly lawful incident of war, and that the right to bombard should be exercised.

There is much that is excellent in the essays, and some of the author's suggestions give food for thought; but the book is unfortunately marred by the cavalier and almost contemptuous treatment accorded by the author to views opposed to his own. Undoubtedly there is possibility for modification and improvement in some of the views he combats, but it is suggested that the